

2-1860

1/5-50-0000 INFORMATION REPORT

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

[REDACTED]

COUNTRY LAOS

BUDGET NO. TDCS -3/502,491

SUBJECT 1. PRISONER OF WAR CAMP AT HONG HET
2. PRESENCE OF VIETNAMESE COMMUNISTS
IN HONG HET AREA

DATE DISTR. 20 FEBRUARY 1962

PRIORITY ROUTINE

DATE OF INFO. NOVEMBER 1961 - FEBRUARY 1962

REFERENCE -830628

PLACE & DATE ACQ. LAOS, VIENTIANE (20 FEBRUARY 1962)

ANALYSIS

THIS IS UNEVALUATED INFORMATION SOURCE GRADINGS ARE D. FURTIVE APPRAISAL OF CONTENT IS TENTATIVE

SOURCE

[REDACTED]

2. UPON ARRIVING AT THE PRISON CAMP AT HONG HET, [REDACTED]
WAS INTERVIEWED BY SGT. MAO PAO YANG WHO WANTED BIOGRAPHIC

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[REDACTED]

STATE ARMY/ACSI NAVY AIR JCS

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APPROVED FOR RELEASE
Date 20 AUG 1979

Encl 45 (S-47601) DA-VN

DIA #45

#279

3. IN ANOTHER ADJACENT CELL WERE SEVEN LAO INCLUDING POLICE COLONELS KUN KEO AND KAM PONG WHO WERE TAKEN ALONG WITH THE RETREATING KONG LE FORCES IN DECEMBER 1960. [REDACTED] COMMENT. PARA 3 OF [REDACTED] REPORTED SIMILAR NAMES.) HOUSED IN THE SAME ROOM WITH THE SEVEN LAO WAS A FILIPINO.

1. FOUR BILLETTS FOR VIETNAMESE COMMUNIST TROOPS;

B. THE MESS HALL;

C. ONE WILL SHED;

D. ONE WAREHOUSE FOR AMMO, FOOD AND SALT;

E. ONE KITCHEN;

F. ONE GENERATOR SHED;

G. ONE LARGE BUILDING DIVIDED INTO FOUR SECTIONS: CELL

NUMBER ONE, CELL NUMBER TWO, MED PL GUARD BILLETTS AND VC TROOPS
BILLETTS.

THE PRISON COMPOUND WAS SURROUNDED BY A CONCRETE WALL APPROXIMATELY EIGHT FEET HIGH. THE COMPOUND WAS FORMERLY A FRENCH FORT BUILT ON THE ROAD JUNCTION (UG 9456) AND FIFTY YARDS FROM ROUTE

~~CLASSIFICATION & DESIGNATION CONTROLS~~

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7 ON WESTERN OUTSKIRTS OF NONG HET.

5. THE PRISONERS WERE RESTRICTED TO THEIR RESPECTIVE CELLS. THEY WERE NOT ASSIGNED WORK DETAILS AND EXERCISE WAS LIMITED TO GUARDED WALKS TO AND FROM THE LATRINE. THE AMERICANS EXERCISED IN THEIR CELL. MEALS WERE BROUGHT TO THE CELLS AND FOOD WAS SUBSTANDARD. HEALTH WAS GENERALLY GOOD AND MORALE WAS FAIR. PRISONERS WERE NOT UNDULY HARASSED. AT NIGHT, HOWEVER, THEIR HANDS WERE TIED TO A STICK INSERTED BETWEEN THEIR BACKS AND ARMS. THEIR ANKLES WERE PLACED IN AN INTERCONNECTED LOCKING DEVICE CAPABLE OF RESTRAINING EIGHT PEOPLE. UNLOCKING THE DEVICE SIMULTANEOUSLY RELEASED ALL PRISONERS.

6. ON 5 FEBRUARY 1962 AT 2100 HOURS [REDACTED] WHO HAD GAINED THE CONFIDENCE OF SGT. NOR PAD YANG, ENTERED [REDACTED] CELL AND RELEASED ALL PRISONERS. SUSPECTING A TRAP, THE AMERICANS REFUSED TO LEAVE. THE LAO PRISONERS IN THE ADJACENT CELL ALSO REFUSED TO LEAVE. [REDACTED] THREE [REDACTED] LAO PRISONERS AND [REDACTED] THEN LEFT THE COMPOUND TOGETHER. STAYING CLEAR OF ROUTE 7 AND KEEPING IN KNOWN FRIENDLY TERRITORY, THE GROUP REACHED BAN PHA KHA (UG 4846) ON 8 FEBRUARY 1962.

7. [REDACTED] THE FOLLOWING INFORMATION ON ENEMY DISPOSITIONS AND MOVEMENTS:

a. AT APPROXIMATELY ONE KILOMETER NORTHWEST OF PRISON COMPOUND THERE WAS AN AIRFIELD 2,500 TO 3,000 FEET LONG. [REDACTED]

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[REDACTED] THOUGHT THAT THE STRIP WAS CAPABLE OF RECEIVING C-46'S BUT HAD NEVER SEEN OR HEARD AIRCRAFT LANDING OR TAKING OFF.

B.. EVERY FIVE DAYS 40 TO 50 SOVIET FOUR BY TWO TRUCKS PASSED THE PRISON COMPOUND COMING FROM NORTH VIETNAM AND TRAVELING WEST. [REDACTED] WORKED OCCASIONALLY IN THE MESS HALL AND COULD SEE TRUCKS PASSING THE PRISON COMPOUND SITUATED ON MOUND OVERLOOKING ROUTE 7. PL GUARDS TOLD HIM THAT THE TRUCK CONVOYS STOPPED OVERNIGHT AT BAN KAUANG (UG 9356). TRUCKS CARRIED RICE AND GASOLINE.

C. IN THE PRISON COMPOUND THERE WERE 50 VIETNAMESE MALES AND 10 FEMALES WHO APPEARED TO BE CIVILIANS ALTHOUGH THEY WERE ARMED WITH SOVIET MANUFACTURED CARBINES. ALL WERE ENGAGED IN ROAD REPAIR ALONG ROUTE 7. THE GROUP WAS HEADED BY A CHIEF ENGINEER. THERE WERE FOUR VED PL GUARDS ARMED WITH SOVIET SMALL ARMS. HEAVIEST WEAPONS IN THE COMPOUND WERE SOVIET MACHINE GUNS (NUMBER NOT SPECIFIED.)

D. THREE MEMBERS OF [REDACTED] TOLD [REDACTED] BEFORE HIS CAPTURE BY PL [REDACTED] THAT THEY HAD FOUND BODY OF DEAD VC SOLDIER AT POINT 300 METERS FROM BAN PHA KHA (UG 4846) AT THE TIME OF RECAPTURE OF BAN PHA KHA IN NOVEMBER 1961. THE THREE [REDACTED] FOUND DOCUMENTS AND PHOTOS ON THE BODY WHICH INDICATED HE WAS A VC SOLDIER. [REDACTED]

COMMENT. [REDACTED] ([REDACTED]) REPORTED SIX VC SOLDIERS KILLED WHEN ENEMY ATTACKED PHA KHA ON 9 OCTOBER. AT THAT TIME NORTH VIETNAMESE BILLS AND COINS, PHOTOGRAPHS, AND TWO NOTEBOOKS WRITTEN IN VIETNAMESE WERE FOUND. THIS IS PROBABLY SAME INCIDENT REFERRED TO BY [REDACTED] WHO IS SOMEWHAT HAZY ON DATES.)

8. [REDACTED] TOLD [REDACTED] THAT THERE WERE 60MM MORTARS AND 57MM RECOILLESS RIFLES (NUMBERS NOT GIVEN) MANNED BY 15 ENEMY AT POSITION ABOUT ONE KILOMETER NORTHEAST OF PRISON CAMP. ON HILL APPROXIMATELY ONE AND ONE HALF KILOMETERS EAST OF THE PRISON CAMP THERE WAS ONE 12.7MM ANTI-AIRCRAFT GUN MANNED BY APPROXIMATELY 15-30 MEN. A FIRST-AID STATION AND MESS HALL WERE LOCATED ABOUT ONE HALF KILOMETER NORTH OF THE ANTI-AIRCRAFT GUN POSITION.

9. [REDACTED] DISSEM. STATE ARMY MAAG USOM USDEL GENEVA CINCPAC PACFLT ARPAC PACAF.

END OF MESSAGE

CLASSIFICATION - DISSEMINATION CONTROLS

ACTION: ACSI, NAVY, AF, JCS, OSD
INFO: DC SOP, ORD
DA IN 204336